

The Office of the Governor **Proclamation**

Executive Department State of Idaho State Capitol Boise

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a common neurological disorder of children and teens; and

WHEREAS, about 200,000 new causes of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, a recent nationwide survey conducted by the Epilepsy Foundation with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 49 percent of adolescents either think epilepsy is contagious or have no knowledge of the condition at all; and

WHEREAS, over two-thirds of adolescents say they would not know what to do if a friend had a seizure; and

WHEREAS, lack of knowledge about epilepsy leads to isolation, teasing and even bullying of children with epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, quality of life for adolescents with epilepsy can be improved with greater understanding and acceptance of children with epilepsy among their peers; and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Foundation is conducting a national campaign to educate teens about epilepsy and a variety of teen programs will be conducted to improve the lives of adolescents in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2002, to be

EPILEPSY MONTH

in Idaho, and urge all health care professionals, school officials, youth organizations, and community groups to unite in our state's commitment to fighting epilepsy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this sixteenth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and two and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-seventh and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirteenth.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE GOVERNOR

PETE T. CENARRUSA SECRETARY OF STATE